

The 4th London Chess Classic is under way at Olympia. The tournament favourite Magnus Carlsen may just have broken Garry Kasparov's all-time high rating of 2851 as you read these words. Magnus is currently 2848 and so a victory in the first round over Luke McShane ought to get him level and then a second win would break the record.

The full line-up is:

Magnus Carlsen (Norway)
ranked 1 – 2848.

Levon Aronian (Armenia)
ranked 2 – 2816.

Vladimir Kramnik (Russia)
ranked 3 – 2795.

Vishy Anand (India) the world
champion, ranked 6 – 2775.

Hikaru Nakamura (USA)
ranked 13 – 2755.

Luke McShane (England)
ranked 29 – 2713.

Michael Adams (England)
ranked 32 – 2710.

Judit Polgar (Hungary)
ranked 43 – 2705.

Gawain Jones (England)
ranked 112 – 2644.

Averaging 2751.22, which makes it the first tournament in the UK to be FIDE Category 21.

IM Jonathan Hawkins is playing the London Chess Classic Open. Hawkins has just authored a book which is selling very well, called *Amateur to IM*, that contains some excellent study material. I suspect he will soon

be able to work on another book entitled from IM to GM as he will have a great opportunity to score a GM result. Hawkins warmed up by winning the British Rapidplay at Leeds.

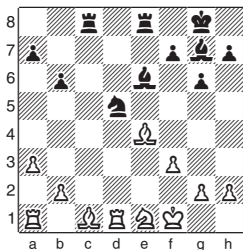
J. L. Weller - J. Hawkins

British Rapidplay, Leeds

Grunfeld Defence

Russian System

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5
4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Qb3 dxc4 6.Qxc4
0-0 7.e4 Na6 (The Prins
Variation) 8.Be2 c5 9.d5 e6
10.0-0 exd5 11.exd5 Bf5
12.Rd1 Qb6 13.Na4 Qb4
14.Qxb4 Nxb4 15.Nxc5 b6
16.Nd3 Nfxd5 17.Nfe1 Rfe8
18.Kf1 Rac8 19.a3 Nxd3
20.Bxd3 Bg4 21.f3 Be6 22.Be4



Black to play and win a pawn

Answer:

20...Rxc1 23.Rdxc1 (23.Raxc1
Ne3+ 24.Kf2 Nxd1+ 25.Rxd1
Bxb2) 23...Bxb2 24.Nc2?
(24.Rab1) 24...Rc8 (The pin is
decisive) 25.Kf2 f5 26.Bd3 Rc3
0-1 26...Rc3 27.Be2 (27.Ke2
Nf4+) 27...Bxa1.